

Requiring access to agency publications and revising library district criteria

SB 1154 by Shapleigh (Hilderbran)

DIGEST: SB 1154 would have required state agencies to make their printed publications accessible on the Internet via their websites in an electronic format. Agencies without websites would have had to provide electronic source files for their publications to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. Agencies would have had to furnish the state library with printed copies of their publications if copies were not available from their websites or if the publications were only available electronically.

The bill also would have added a new set of criteria to the funding mechanism that allows municipalities and unincorporated areas without library services to create library districts supported by local sales-tax revenue. It would have made elections on adopting or increasing library district sales and use taxes tantamount to elections to reduce tax rates for industrial development districts if:

- all or any part of the proposed library district lay within the boundaries of an industrial development corporation (IDC) created under Sec. 4B of the Development Corporation Act of 1979 (Art. 5190.6, V.T.C.S.) by a municipality after the original filing date of the petition to create the library district; and
- adopting or increasing library district sales and use taxes would have raised combined local tax rates above 2 percent anywhere in the proposed library district.

Under those conditions, if voters had adopted or increased library district taxes, IDC tax rates would have been reduced to the highest rate possible without exceeding the statutory 2 percent local cap. IDC tax rates would have increased automatically if and when library district taxes decreased or expired. Any increases would have been limited to the amount of reductions caused by adopting or increasing library district taxes. The bill also would have prohibited taxing entities from imposing different tax rates within their boundaries.

**GOVERNOR'S
REASON FOR
VETO:**

“The amendment to Senate Bill No. 1154 concerning library districts would have an adverse effect on the Village of Bee Cave and its citizens by negating a voter-approved sales tax for economic development projects. The bill requires a reduction in the sales-tax rate of a 4B development corporation if a library district and corresponding sales tax is subsequently created within the boundaries of the corporation. This would retroactively override the statutory petition and election process provided in current law.

“The Mayor and City Council of the Village of Bee Cave have committed to providing the Lake Travis area with a fully-accredited library to be open within three years. The library will be available to the public without regard to residency and funded from sales-tax revenues from the 4B development corporation.

“I support the intent of Senate Bill No. 1154 as filed. Therefore, by executive order, I am directing state agencies to make their printed publications accessible from their websites in an electronic format and furnish to the State Library a list of publications as they become available.”

RESPONSE: Neither Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, the bill’s author, nor Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, the House sponsor, had a comment on the veto.

NOTES: SB 1154 passed the House on the Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar and was not analyzed in a *Daily Floor Report*. HB 1770 by Keel, on which the amendment was based, was analyzed in the April 16 *Daily Floor Report*.